

****ATTENTION****

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FACTS:

Growth Trends and Wildlife Habitat Impacts

Washington State As A Habitat Resource Base

- Washington ranks 11th among the 11 Western states in size.
- Washington ranks 2nd among the 11 Western states in population and population density (behind only California).
- Washington ranks 9th among the 11 Western states in public land (38.7 percent of total; only 28 percent of that is federal land or 12.1 million acres).

Habitat Values In Washington State

- Washington habitats support 640 species of vertebrates.
- 30,000 acres of wildlife habitat are converted to other uses each year.
- Ninety percent of Western Washington's original wetlands have been altered.
- Fifty percent of Western Washington's original wetlands have been lost to wildlife.
- Estimated loss of wildlife due to habitat conversion between 1975 and 1990 is 1.5 million animals.
- Eighty percent of Washingtonians participate in wildlife-related recreation.
- The direct economic value of wildlife-related recreation is \$330 million per year; indirect economic value exceeds \$1 billion.

Wildlife Habitats Of Special Concern

- **Shrub-steppe**—Fifty percent of Washington's native sage and grasslands are gone.
- **Old growth forest**—The vast majority of Washington's old growth forest is gone. Species which depend on old growth are declining.
- **Riparian Areas**—Streamside plant communities support 60 percent of Washington wildlife.
- **Wetlands**—One-third of Washington's threatened and endangered species depend on wetlands for survival.
- **Winter range for elk and deer**—Much winter range has been developed as recreational or agricultural land.

Washington Department of Wildlife: What We Are Doing About Habitat Loss



- **Policy**—Habitat protection is the highest priority of the Wildlife Commission.
- **Acquisition**—Over the last eight years, the Department has acquired over 2,000 acres of wildlife habitat. Over \$584,000 from Duck Stamp sales has been used in this effort. This biennium, \$350,000 will be spent from Duck Stamp revenues and \$250,000 will be spent from personalized license plate revenue administered by the Nongame Program.
- **Regulation**—The Department acts in an advisory capacity in the enforcement of a variety of state and federal environmental laws. The Department administers permits under the state Hydraulics Act and the Bald Eagle Protection Rules. The latter two statutes are the Department's only direct habitat regulatory authority.
- **Mitigation**—Impacts to wildlife are mitigated under a variety of federal laws. Mitigation protects lands set aside as partial replacement of lost habitat.
- **Education**—The Department assists local governments, other agencies and organizations in understanding habitat values and proper habitat management.